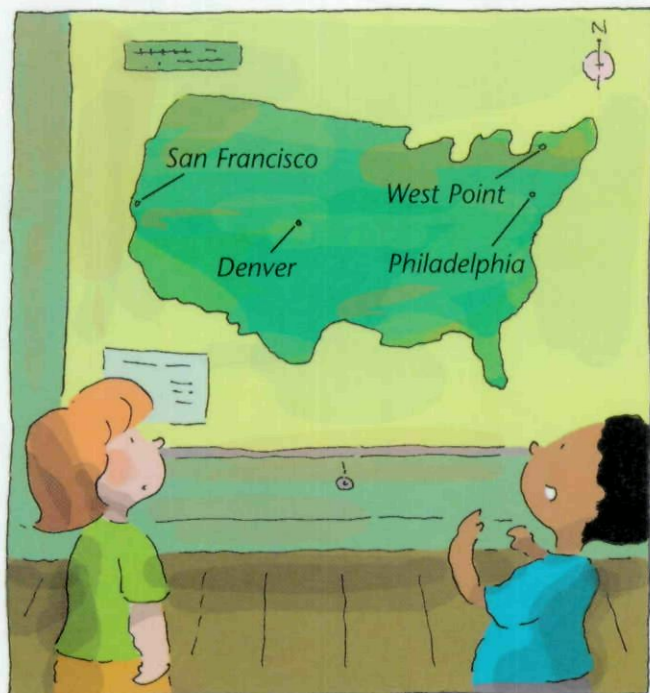


Mint-y Fresh Coins

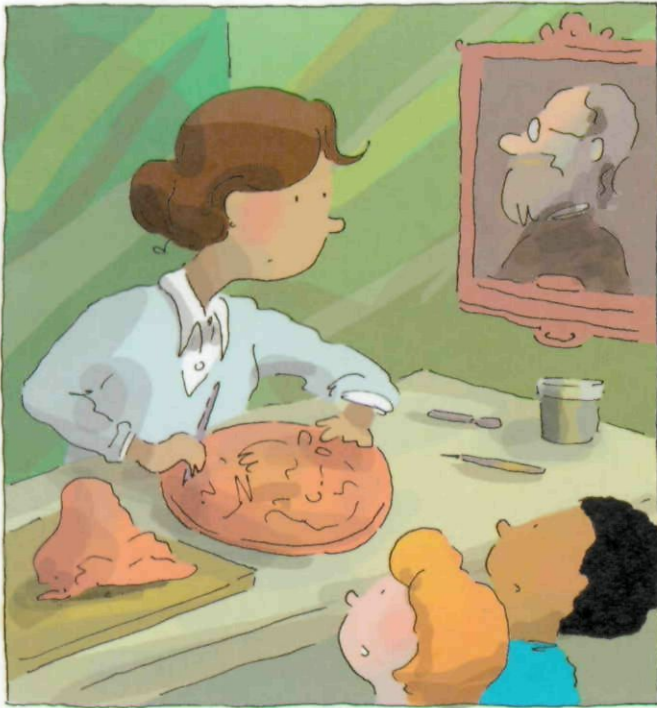
by James Hennelly
art by Scot Ritchie



Coins are made in factories called mints. There are only four mints in the United States.



Creating a new coin begins with an artist drawing the picture that will appear on the coin.



Another artist makes a big clay model of the drawing.

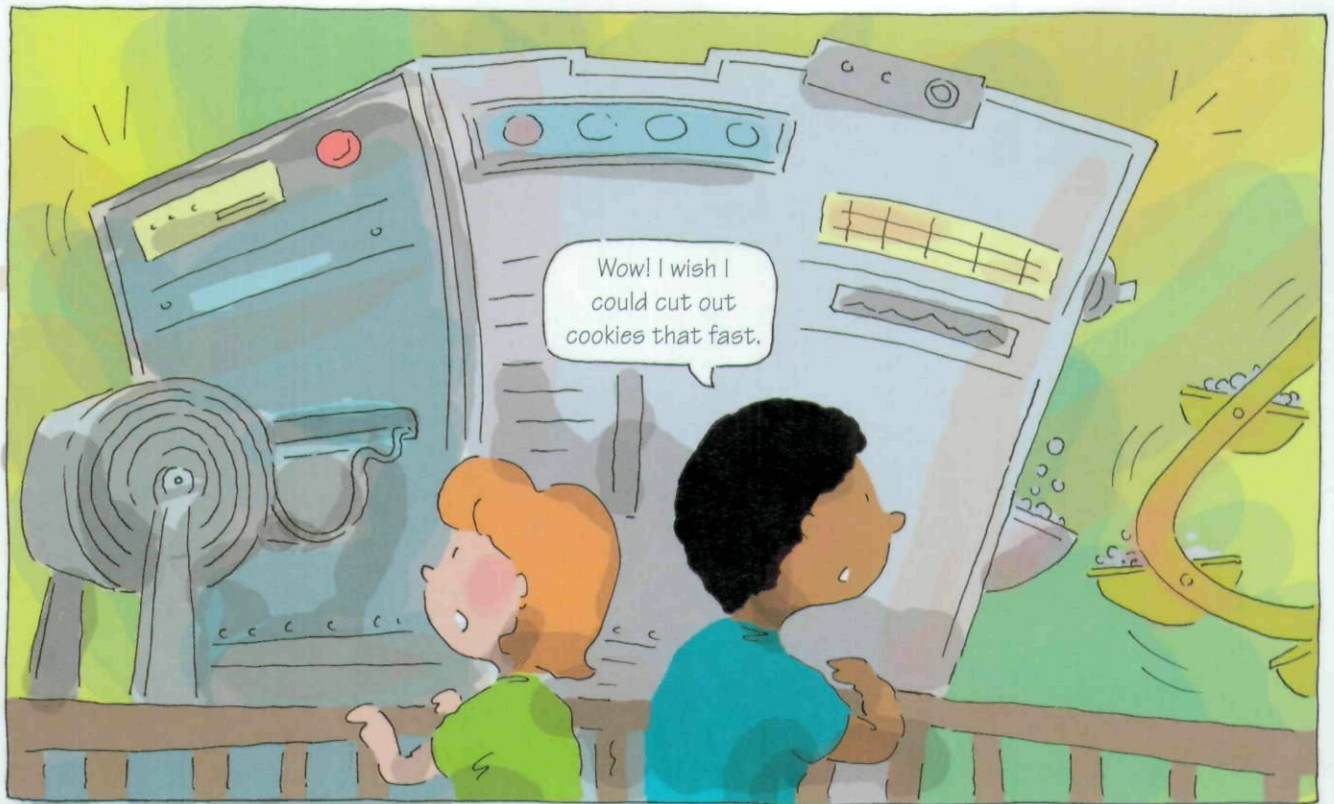


The clay model is used to make a mold, and a final big model is made of hard plastic.



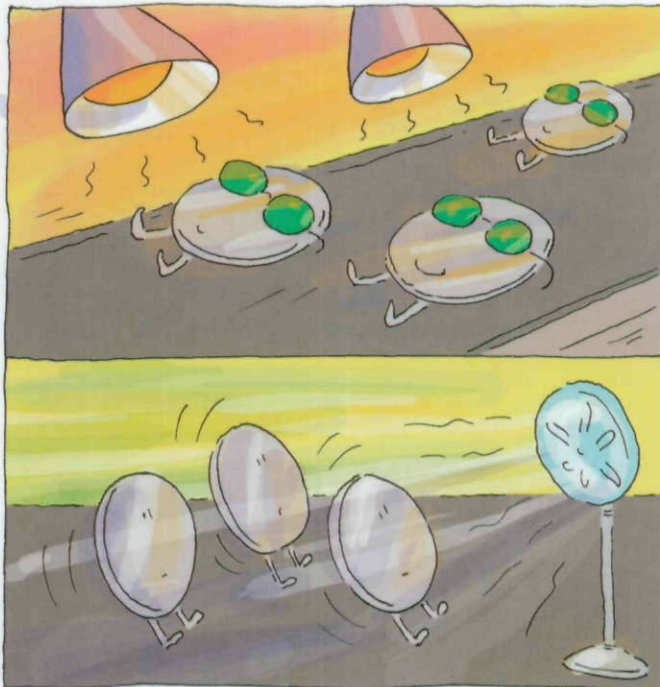
The plastic model is placed in a machine that traces the large image and engraves the design on a coin-sized piece of metal.

The small metal copy is used to make stamps called dies. Each die has to be inspected to make sure there are no mistakes.

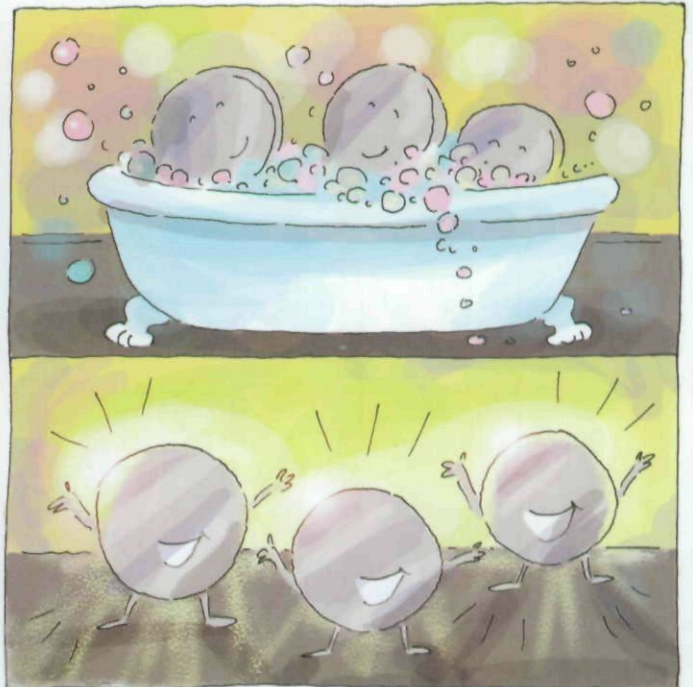


Meanwhile, large metal sheets that are as thick as a coin are fed into a machine.

The machine works like a cookie cutter, cutting out smooth, blank coins from the metal.



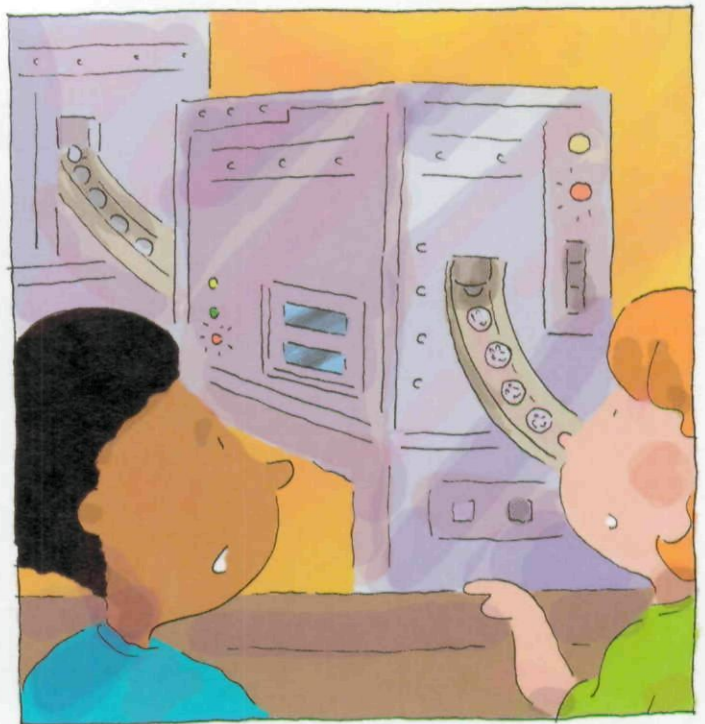
The blank coins are heated to make the metal easier to stamp.



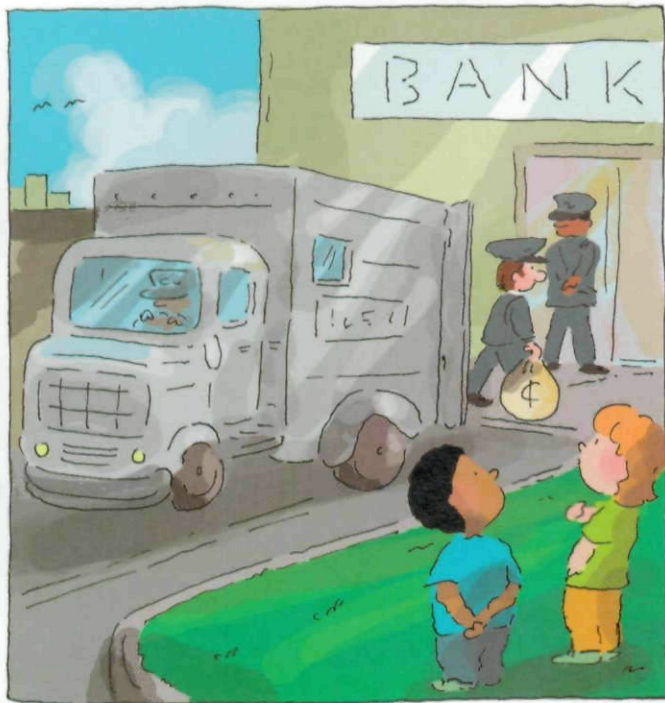
Then they are cooled, washed, and dried to make them shiny.



The shiny blanks are put through a machine called an upsetting mill, which puts a raised border around the edge of each blank coin.



Next they go into the coin press. Dies inside the press stamp the designs onto the front and back of each blank. Now the blanks are real coins.



Finally, the new coins are bagged and shipped to banks, where people can get them.



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